

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00033 111429Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W
-----121200 112101Z /44

R 111300Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 336
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0033

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FR, DM
SUBJ: BENIN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS REASON FOR FRENCH AMB'S
RECALL

REF: COTONOU 0015

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 9 EDITION
OF GOV'T DAILY EHUZU, GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BENIN (GPRB) FORMIN ALLADAYE TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT HE
WISHED TO GIVE TRUE REASONS FOR FRENCH AMB MEADMORE'S RECALL.
ALLADAYE SAID THAT WILE FRENCH MEDIA WERE ATTRMOUTING RECALL TO
FACT THAT MEADMORE HAD BEEN TOLD NOT TO ATTEND DEC 30 PRESID-
ENTIAL CEREMONY, IN FACT BENINHMAD WITHDRAWN ITS AGREEMENT TO
MEADMORE'S APPOINTMENT IN SEPT 1977. AT THAT TIME, THE FORMIN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00033 111429Z

IS QUOTED AS SAYING, BENIN ASKED FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO RECALL
MEADMORE AND REPLACE HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NO REPLY WAS
FORTHCOMING.

2. ALLADAYE STATED THAT IT WAS "PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE" THAT JAN 16,
1977 MERCENARY ATTACK COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED WITHOUT
THE "VERY ACTIVE COMPLICITY" OF AMB MEADMORE. HE SAID THERE

EXISTS PARTICULARLY DAMAGING AND IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF ROLE MEADMORE PLAYED NOT ONLY IN ATTACKING STATE SECURITY BUT ALSO IN SEEKING TO BLOCK THE "HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND BENINESE PEOPLE" AND TO "UNDERMINE THE SINCERE COOPERATION" WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE NEW COOPERATION ACCORDS WERE SIGNED IN 1975. THIS DEMONSTRATED, ACCORDING TO ALLADAYE, THAT MEADMORE WAS NOT REPRESENTING FRANCE BUT RATHER "THE EXTREME RIGHTWING REACTIONARY COLONIALIST MILIEU WHOSE CONSTANT CONCERN HAS BEEN TO TOPPLE OUR REVOLUTION." ALLADAYE STRESSED THAT GPRB HAD ACTED "COURTEOUSLY" BY TOLERATING MEADMORE'S PRESENCE FOR FOUR MONTHS WHEN BY RIGHTS IT COULD HAVE "THROWN HIM OUT" (MIS A LA PORTE) IN SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT: ALLADAYE'S REMARKS CONFIRM OUR FEELINGS THAT GPRB, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY PRESIDENT KEREKOU, HARBORED PERSONAL DISLIKE FOR MEADMORE WHOM HE DID NOT SEE AS SUFFICIENTLY "COOPERATIVE" (I.E., PROVIDING AID WHEN REQUESTED) AND WAS SEEKING EXCUSE TO HAVE HIM REMOVED. ARGUMENT THAT MEADMORE KNEW MORE THAN FRENCH GOV'T IS SPECIOUS. (OUR IMPRESSION WAS THAT MEADMORE KNEW LESS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAN SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN BENIN.) MOREOVER, HAD THERE BEEN FIRM PROOF OF MEADMORE'S ALLEGED COMPLICITY, GPRB WOULD HAVE "THROWN HIM OUT" MUCH EARLIER DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S "PATIENCE AND COURTESY." ALLADAYE'S RATHER LAME EXPLANATION APPEARS TO BE A MEANS OF TRYING TO PLACATE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN WAKE OF GPRB'S TAKING A DRASTIC AND OVERLY HASTY ACTION, WHICH MIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COTONO 00033 111429Z

COST IT A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FURTHER XLENCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COTONO000033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780016-1067
Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780177/aaaacnaq.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6394eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COTONOU 15
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3795337
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENIN FOREIGN MINISTER EXPLAINS REASON FOR FRENCH AMB'S RECALL
TAGS: PDIP, FR, DM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6394eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014